

SYNTAXIS TRIANGULATA (BARNES & MCDUNNOUGH) MOVED TO CARIPETA WALKER  
(GEOMETRIDAE: ENNOMINAE)

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**ABSTRACT.** Based upon genitalic characters, the ennomine geometrid *Synaxis triangulata* is removed from genus *Synaxis* and placed in *Caripeta*. The genitalia of the type species of *Synaxis*, *Caripeta*, and adults and genitalia of *Caripeta triangulata* are illustrated.

**Additional key words:** Arizona, *Caripeta divisata*, *Caripeta triangulata*, New Mexico, *Sabulodes*, taxonomy, Texas.

Examination of genitalia within the genus *Synaxis* Hulst (1896, *sensu stricto*) has revealed the male and female genitalia of the taxon *triangulata* Barnes & McDunnough correspond to those of *Caripeta* Walker and not to *Synaxis*. The male genitalia of *Synaxis* manifest a single robust tubular furca originating from the midline of the juxta plate, as shown in Fig. 1 for the type species, *Tetracis pallulata* Hulst, 1887. The gnathos has a quadrate dorso-caudal margin with one or more pairs of slender tapered spinose projections (in some individual specimens there are multiple asymmetric projections). The aedeagus (Fig. 2) has a ring of spines or setae at the base of the vesica, which when everted and inflated is dome-like, usually partially covered with setae or small chitinized nodules. The female genitalia of *S. pallulata* are shown in Figs. 9–10. Pitkin (2002, p. 245) characterized the male genitalia of *Caripeta* as having a curved slender rod-like uncus, gnathos with a bilobed median spinulose area in the form of a W, valva without processes, anellus with spinulose right-directed furca, and juxta with a right-deflected tiny elongate median depression or sac. The aedeagus has a tapered posterior extension and the vesica may or may not have a patch of denticles. The corpus bursa of the female genitalia has a large ovate dentate signum. The male and female genitalia of the type species, *Caripeta divisata* Walker, are illustrated in Figs. 3–5 and 11–12 respectively.

***Caripeta triangulata* (Barnes & McDunnough) new combination**

*Sabulodes triangulata* Barnes & McDunnough, 1916, Contr. nat. Hist. N. Am. 3(1), p. 33, pl. I, fig. 15; TL Paradise, Cochise Co., Arizona; female HT in USNM.

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*Synaxis triangulata*; McDunnough, 1938

**Material examined.** (8 males, 1 female; 2 males, 1 female, dissected): ARIZONA, Cochise Co., Chiricahua Mts.: Cave Creek Canyon area, 1585m, 5–16.viii.1979–80 (4 males); Pinery Canyon, 2130m, 23.vi.05 (1 male); Onion Saddle area, 2325m, 22.vii.07 (2 males); Stewart C.G., 9.viii.1999 (1 female). NEW MEXICO, Hidalgo Co., east end of Skeleton Canyon, 1465m, 9.ix.2002, (1 male). Males collected by author; female by R. M. Brown.

**Discussion.** Barnes & McDunnough provided a detailed description of the habitus of this species and no additional elaboration is required here. Adults are illustrated in Figs. 15–16. By comparing the male genitalia of *Caripeta divisata* (Figs. 3–5) with those of “*Synaxis*” *triangulata* (Figs. 6–8) one can see that they are nearly identical and quite different from those of *Synaxis* (Figs. 1–2). On this basis, I transfer *triangulata* from *Synaxis* to *Caripeta*. The male genitalia of *Sabulodes*, in which *triangulata* was originally described, are very different from those of either *Synaxis* or *Caripeta* (see Rindge 1978). McGuffin (1987) illustrated the adults, male and female genitalia of *Caripeta divisata* and *C. piniata* (Packard).

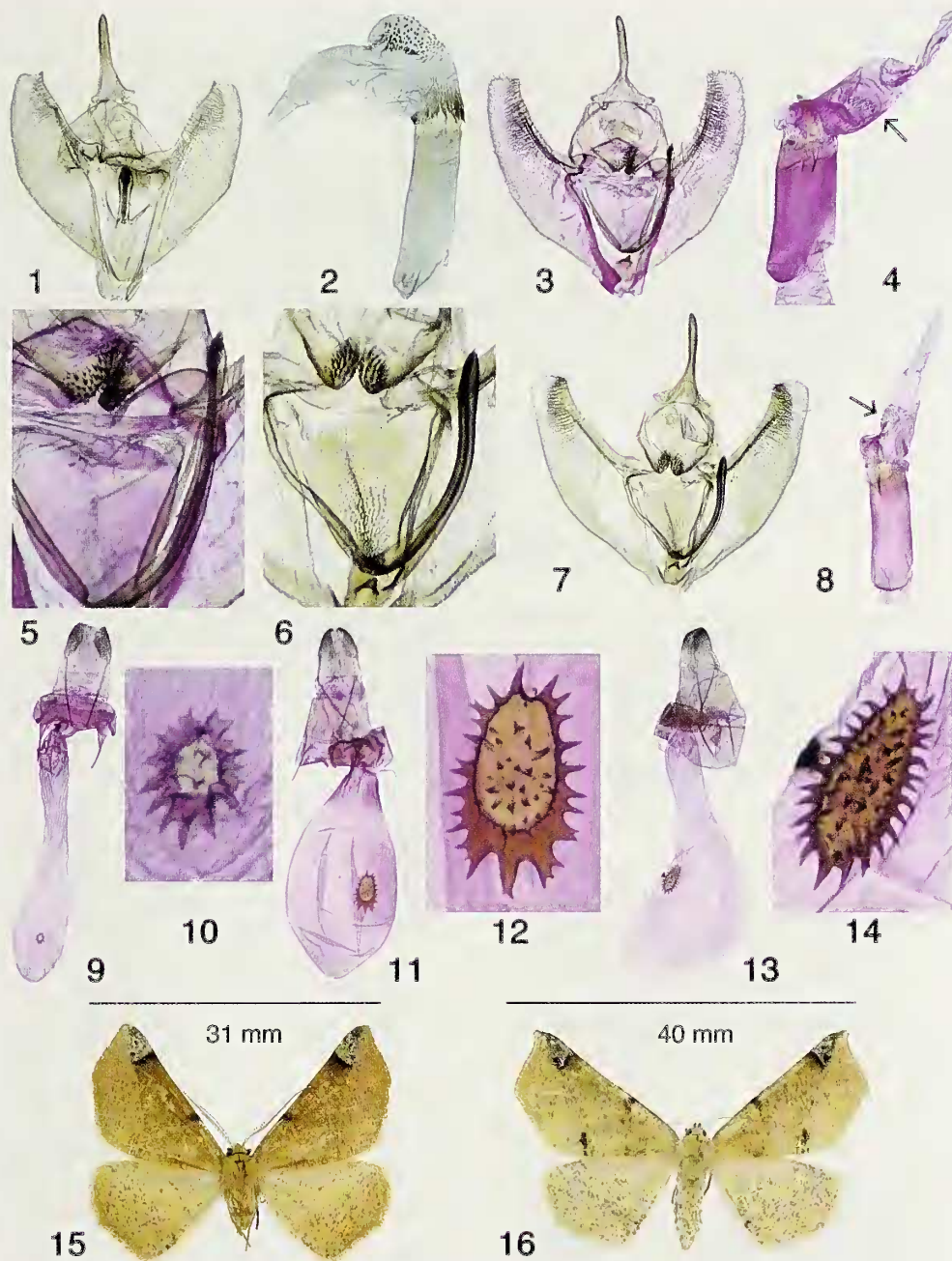
The biology of *C. triangulata* is unknown. Based upon available records, adults fly from mid-June into early October. Geographic distribution includes Cochise Co., Arizona, Hidalgo Co., New Mexico, and Texas (Brewster, Burnet, Comal, Jeff Davis, Presidio, Terrell, Uvalde, and Val Verde counties). The moth appears to be uncommon in the western portion of its range, but common in Texas in September and October.

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FIGS. 1–14. Figs. 1–2. *Synaxis pallulata*: 1, male genitalia (aedeagus removed); 2, aedeagus with vesica everted and inflated. Figs. 3–5. *Caripeta divisata*: 3, male genitalia (aedeagus removed); 4, aedeagus with vesica everted and inflated (arrow points to denticles); 5, enlarged view showing bilobed median spinulose area of gnathos. Figs. 6–8. *Caripeta triangulata*: 6, male genitalia (aedeagus removed); 7, aedeagus with vesica everted and inflated (arrow points to denticles); 8, enlarged view showing bilobed median spinulose area of gnathos. Figs. 9–10. *Synaxis pallulata*: 9, female genitalia; 10, enlarged view of signum. Figs. 11–12. *Caripeta divisata*: 11, female genitalia; 12, enlarged view of signum. Figs. 13–16. *Caripeta triangulata*: 13, female genitalia; 14, enlarged view of signum; 15, adult male; 16, adult female.

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